

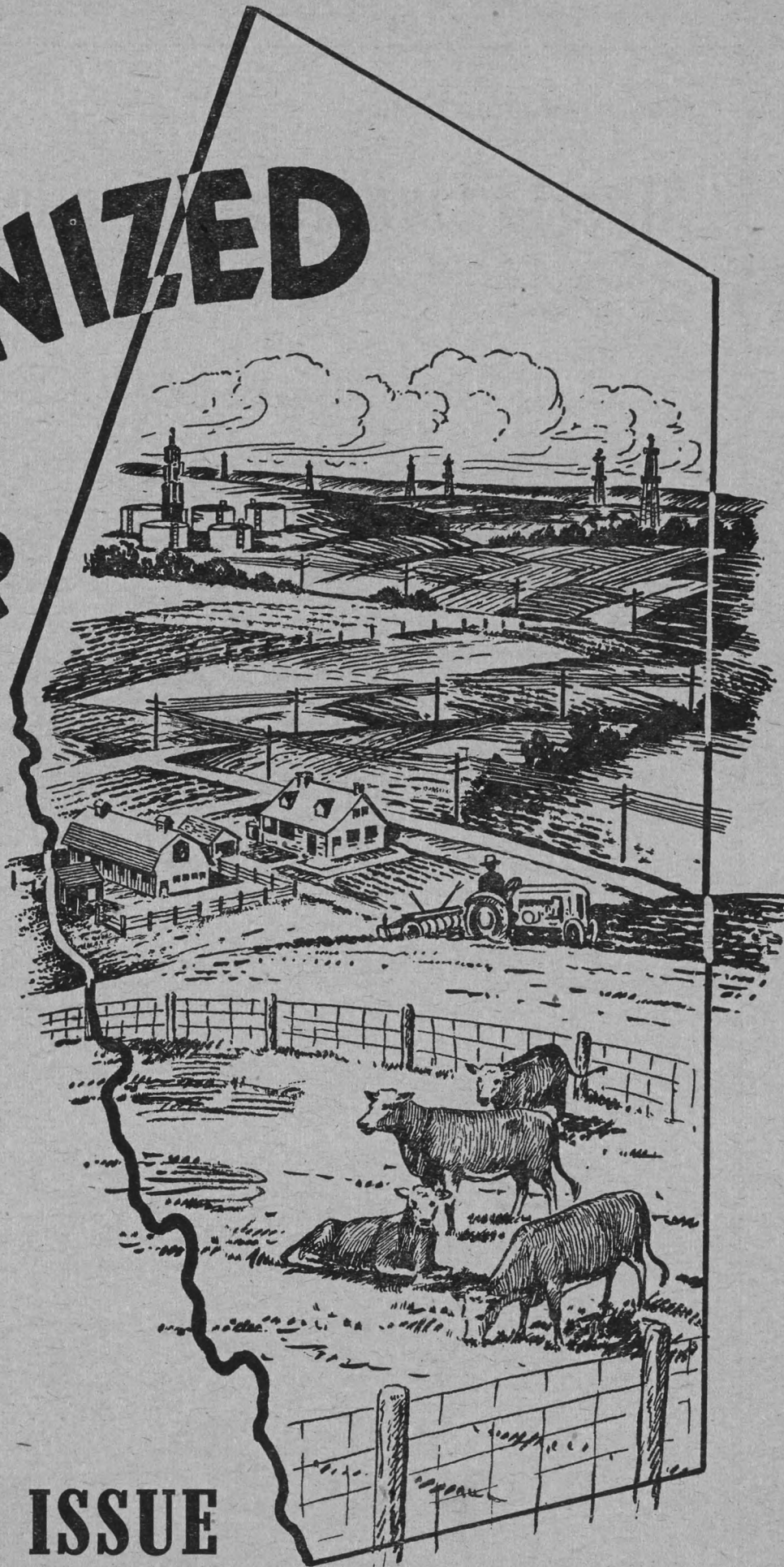
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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

December, 1956



Wishing All
A Happy
and
Prosperous
New Year



CONVENTION ISSUE

GENERAL SERVICES

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1956

Monthly Letter from

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

Dear Friends:

By the time you read this it's quite likely that the Christmas Holidays will be with us. We sincerely hope that it will be a pleasant and friendly time for all of us.

And just around the corner is the start of a New Year.

But before we go into the New Year, with its continuation of the problems of the year that's nearly behind us, we'd like to express our heartfelt appreciation to you and to all the persons and organizations who have made it possible for us to be of service to you.

We like working with you and for you. You have all made it easier for us through your co-operation and understanding. We make no exceptions. Like all human beings we're far from perfect. We make mistakes from time to time. And when we make mistakes and are criticized we try to eliminate the possibility of repetition. On this basis even your criticisms are of help to us. And you'd be surprised how often we receive a note of appreciation for what we have done or are doing and you can be certain that's a lot of help.

There are simply too many individuals involved in our business for us to single any one out. But on behalf of the Board of Directors of the A.L.C., its management and staff we wish to thank you all for your consideration during the year that is nearly gone.

We also speak for the Directorates, Managers and Shippers of all the Co-operative Livestock Associations who so ably serve throughout our Province and in the Dawson Creek, B.C. district. These people appreciate you, we in turn want to thank them for their close co-operation and loyalty.

We sincerely wish you all

A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

We would remind you that we cannot afford to relax our efforts towards solidifying and improving the position of the Livestock Producer through Organization.

Sincerely Yours,

C. P. HAYES, President

H. WINKELAAR, Manager
Edmonton Division

GEO. WINKELAAR
General Manager

(Advertisement)

Farmers' Union of Alberta

9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta

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Vice-Pres. — Henry Young, Millet.

Mrs. W. C. Taylor, Wainwright

A. B. Wood, Dewberry.

C. J. Stimpfle, Egremont.

Secretary — Mrs. Pansy Molen,

F.W.U.A. President — Mrs. C. T. Armstrong,
2113 - 29th Avenue, S.W., Calgary.

F.W.U.A. EXECUTIVE:

President — Mrs. C. T. Armstrong,
2113 - 29th Avenue, S.W., Calgary.

1st Vice-President — Mrs. Olive Douglass, Vulcan.

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1st Vice-Pres. — Dean Lien, Warner.

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		Laurena Pollock, Hubalta	
		George Doupe, Oyen	
		Hartley McDonald, Vulcan	
		Richard Barton, Wrentham	
			Robert Davidson, Delburne

President's Report

I deeply appreciate the confidence you have placed in me by re-electing me as your president for another year. I am sensible of the great responsibility you have placed upon me and promise to do my best to advance the policies of the Farmers' Union, to the very best of my ability. During the year ahead I shall, as I did last year, endeavour to work in harmony with my executive and board, and to seek the support of all those whose policies are similar to our own. I am completely dedicated to the principle of parity for agriculture and the preservation of the family-type farm, and I shall be especially diligent in working for policies that will bring that about.

Briefs were prepared in the office of the Saskatchewan Farmers' Union, with help from this office, for presentation to the Dominion-Provincial Conference, held recently in Ottawa. These briefs were presented on behalf of the Interprovincial Farm Union Council by Mr. Turnbull, of Saskatchewan, who led the delegation, and other members which included Mr. Hansen from Saskatchewan, Mr. Jorgeson from Manitoba, Mr. Cormack and Mrs. Prosser from

Ontario, and myself. While the presentations of all the members of the delegation were well received Mr. Turnbull did an outstanding job. A report on the conference is presented elsewhere in this issue.

While in Ottawa the members of the delegation, together with a larger delegation from Labour, met with a committee of the Federal Cabinet to present a joint brief on behalf of farmers and farm-implement manufacture employees. The material in this brief was reviewed in the last issue of The Organized Farmer. The delegation was well received and Mr. Howe and Mr. Gregg appeared quite sympathetic, but Mr. Gardiner maintained that there wasn't much to worry about insofar as agriculture was concerned.

Mr. Hansen, of Saskatchewan, Mr. Jorgeson of Manitoba, and myself, recently interviewed the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Mr. Howe, and presented him with a memorandum requesting that sale of flax and rye be put under the Canadian Wheat Board. Mr. Howe pointed out that the market for these grains was limited and that the government did not want to unduly encourage their production, and for that reason

(Continued on Page 4)

Pat and Pox on Convention

By the Delegate from Dog Patch

Pats to Herb Marquardt, Dallas Minion, Hilda Beach for the swell social evening. We all had fun. The entertainment during the convention was good too. You need something to quiet your nerves after a strenuous session.

A pox on those fraternal delegates who give gratuitous advice on what we should do with our resolutions.

Pats to those directors who did their home work and were able to give information to the delegates when asked. Good work fellows.

A pox on those delegates and others who spend their time in the lobby diligently passing on the latest rumour, 99% of which was pure gossip.

Pats to the ushers, including the juniors, who were on the job and made it that much easier and pleasanter for all of us.

A pox on those looking after checking on the first morning — it was lousy.

A pat to chief Hunter — that youngster gave a good speech. Maybe it's because he had something to talk about and, in any case he was sincere. And I thought we were the only ones that had troubles. A thought for the action committee — how about another rebellion with Chief Hunter replacing Louis Riel?

A pox on the president and the order of business for breaking in with speakers just when we had a good argument going.

A pat to Andy Wood, chairman extraordinary, and Pansy Molen, secretary without peer. They are the best.

It was a good convention, I spoke twice.

FEATHERS WANTED

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HERMAN KLETKE,

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Oat Hulls and Fibre are Bad Medicine

The digestive system of a pig is totally different from that of a cow. Nature created a pig to live on high nutritive feeds low in fibre, on the other hand a cow has a digestive system especially designed to handle large quantities of feeds high in fibre and roughage. Pigs get sick because of too much roughage and cows get sick because of not enough roughage.

In creep feeding and in feeding weaner pigs only feeds **low in fibre** and **high in quality of carbohydrates, minerals and vitamins** should be used says A. J. Charnetski, Livestock Supervisor, Alberta Department of Agriculture. For lack of better feeds, ordinary rolled oats can be used to start creep feeding the pigs at two weeks of age. Fresh skim milk also should be used. The University Swine Barn Sheet offers many useful suggestions on this matter. Get it from your District Agriculturist. Several reputable feed manufacturers have suitable creep feed preparations on the market — if properly used, they are good.

For those who wish to remove excess oat hulls from their own oats. Mr. Charnetski recommends trying full rows of teeth in concaves in a threshing machine. The concaves are then tightened up and the grain returned several times through the cleaner. A combine can be used in a similar way. It is also possible with a hammer mill operated at a slow speed. A little practice will probably yield surprisingly good results.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

was reluctant to place a floor price under them for fear production might be encouraged. He did, however promise to examine our memorandum and take the whole matter up with his advisers.

The annual convention has come and gone. I think it was a good convention. Many important matters were well discussed and decisions arrived at. I think that the decisions were wisely made and I know that the Board and Executive will do all that they can to see that they are carried out. Already action in this regard is being initiated and I am hopeful that the results will be good.

Because of the late date of the convention this issue will probably not reach you until the Holiday season is past, but I do wish to express to all of you, on behalf of both Mrs. Platt and myself, our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

"Know Your Directors"



R. HANSEL

Welcome R. Hansel, F.U.A. director for District 8. Was born and raised at Gadsby, where he now operates a two-section farm. Besides being a grain farmer, he raises cattle and pigs.

He is married to Winnifred Hansel and has three children attending school. He also has raised his wife's brother and sister, who were left orphans.

Before becoming director four years ago, he was sub-director for three years.

Freight Rate Increases

The announcement by the Board of Transport Commissioners that they had confirmed the 7% increase in freight rates originally granted on an interim basis, and given another 4% increase, came as a shock to all farmers. The possibility of another 3% boost was also mentioned by the Commission. This increase in freight rates will set off another round of price increase that, in all probability, will wipe out the small advance the farmers have been able to make in net income in the past year. By law the increases given are final and cannot be appealed. About all that we can do at the moment is protest this extra unjust burden.

Isn't it about time the government appointed a commission to give increased prices to farmers every time we need more money. What is good for the C.P.R. should be good for farmers.



MRS. MAY KEAST

Mrs. May Keast, FWUA director for District 8 was born at Gleichen, and at an early age moved to Viking where she has lived ever since.

She is married to Cecil E. Keast, and has three children, and three grandchildren. One son is a trumpet player in the Army Band, a daughter attends high school at Viking and her other daughter is married.

Besides her activities in the Union, having been director since 1953, she is active in the United Church Auxiliary, Hospital Auxiliary and Home and School Association.

She and her husband operate a mixed farm.

F.U.A. NEWS —

Officers of the coming year were elected at the annual meeting of the Hillock local. Those elected were president—Wm. Martiniuk; vice-president—Pete Zaplachinsky; secretary—Art Kostyniuk. Mr. John M. Kitt was elected delegate to the annual convention.

* * *

The Irvine FUA and FWUA held a social on November 30th in aid of the membership drive. A good turnout was experienced with 90% sign-up of members.

Dominion - Provincial Conference

A. W. Platt

The annual Dominion-Provincial Conference was held in Ottawa on December the 3rd to 6th, 1956. At this conference the current agricultural situation in Canada is to review the production and sales of farm products in Canada and to foresee as far as possible what the situation is likely to be in the next year.

The conference is called by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Gardiner, and those attending are his advisers; the ministers and deputy ministers of the provincial governments across Canada; representatives of various foreign nations; the Canadian Federation of Agriculture; and the Interprovincial Farm Union Council. This year the representatives of other nations included those from Norway, Great Britain, Denmark, and a fairly large delegation from the United States.

At the opening of the conference Mr. Gardiner, the Minister of Agriculture, reviewed the agricultural situation in Canada, and gave, as his opinion, that agriculture was on its way up. He pointed out that cash income would be increasing this year and quoted figures to show that very likely 1956 would prove to be one of the better years in the history of Canadian agriculture, and that the outlook for the future was quite bright.

Following Mr. Gardiner's address Mr. Hanam, of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, spoke and stated that farmers will stop leaving the land and that prices will rise in the next few years. He stated that agriculture had adjusted to changed conditions but that this adjustment had been a cruel and harsh one in which farmers had been forced off their land, forced into jobs they did not care to do, because there just was no way for them to remain on their land.

Mr. Turnbull then presented a prepared statement on behalf of the I.F.U.C., calling on the Minister to call a conference early in 1957 to draft a program to give farmers fair prices, encourage provincial marketing boards and draft a comprehensive credit program. He pointed out that it was not the inefficient farmer who was leaving the land but, rather, that it was the young man with ambition and initiative who was being forced off the land.

Each of the individual commodities were

then discussed. A prepared statement was given to us that had been compiled from the experts in the Department of Agriculture, showing what production had occurred last year and what the trend was likely to be next year along with the possible markets. These authoritative reviews for each individual commodity were most useful and many of them will be used in the future to bring before the farm people of Alberta what the situation is in regard to individual commodities. Following this the Interprovincial Council gave briefs on each of these commodities as to how we thought the situation should be handled. For example, when grain was discussed a brief was presented outlining the policy of the Interprovincial Council to improve grain marketing in Canada, and policies that could be expected to increase our markets in foreign countries. The same procedure was followed with all the main agricultural commodities. The Interprovincial Council presented briefs on grain, hogs, cattle, poultry and potatoes, as well as a general statement on agricultural conditions.

Towards the end of the conference each of the provincial ministers of agriculture spoke emphasizing the situation that existed in their particular province, and by and large all of these ministers supported the view that was been made and promised that, in the coming session, very probably a number of things would taken by the farm organizations — that agriculture was in very difficult circumstances and we would have to devise new marketing schemes and new national policies if agriculture was going to obtain parity. I was impressed with overwhelming support that was given to the general statement that Mr. Turnbull made on behalf of the Interprovincial Council.

At the conclusion of the conference Mr. Gardiner summed up the results of the deliberations and stated that his government would give consideration to the submissions that had be done that would be of assistance to the agricultural industry. However, he reiterated his opening remarks that, in his opinion, agriculture was in a reasonably good state and that the farm organizations, and many of the others at the meeting, had painted a gloomier picture than actually existed.

The briefs of the Interprovincial Council re-

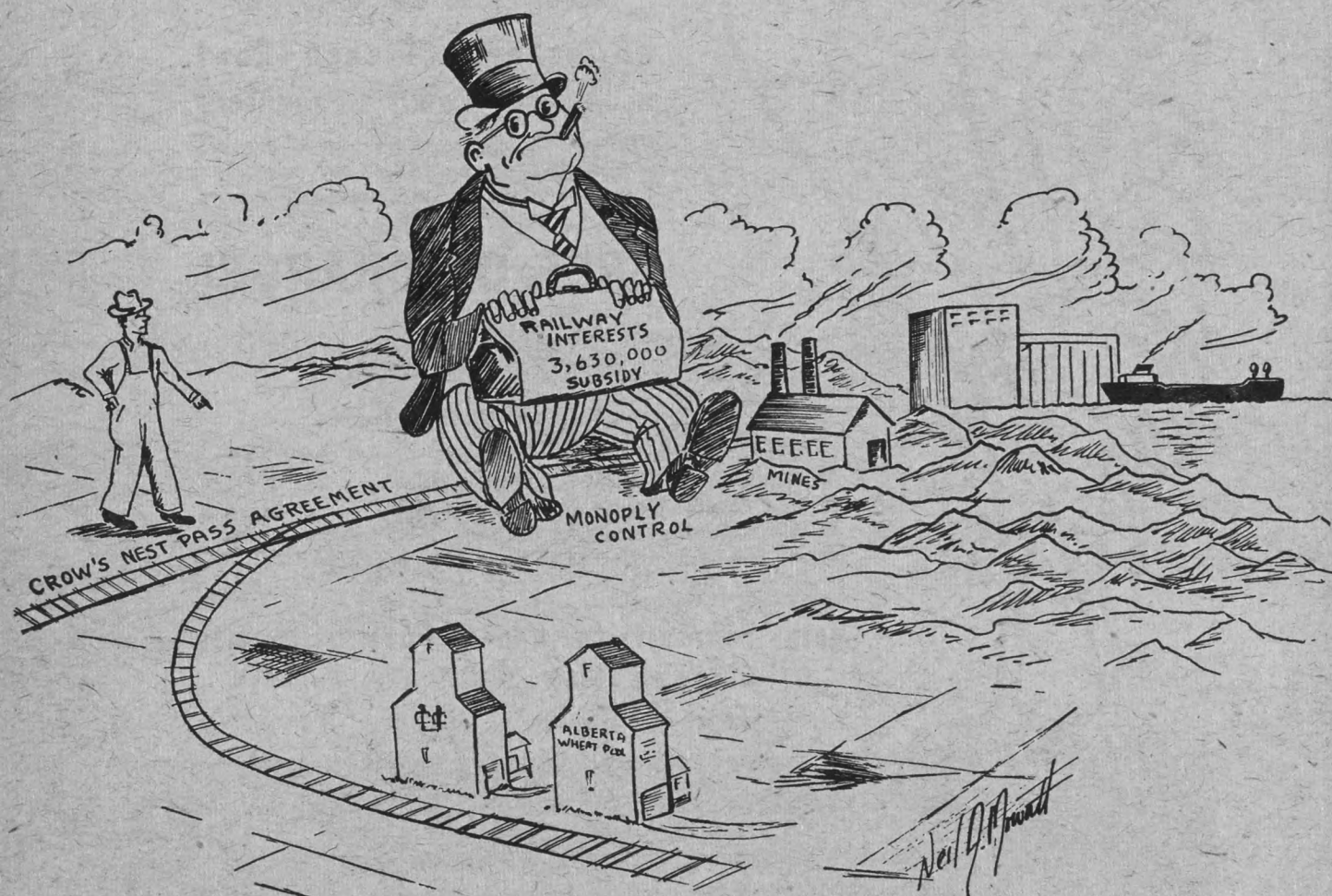
NO IRON — NO LIVING PIGS

The speeded-up pig production program on the year round basis requires more attention from pig growers to matters which on the surface appear trivial and unimportant says A. J. Charnetski, Livestock Supervisor, Alberta De-

ceived very excellent publicity during the conference amongst the press and radio people. While one cannot say that real progress was made in this presentation we, who were on the delegation, could not help but feel the important progress had been made in at least acquainting the provincial authorities, as well as the federal authorities, with the difficulties that agriculture is facing. I cannot help but believe that we are rapidly approaching the time when the Dominion Government is going to have to take more realistic steps towards assistance to agriculture, and introduce national policies that

partment of Agriculture. One of these is prevention of death in suckling pigs due to lack of iron in their blood system. Iron shortage in suckling pigs starts at three to four days of age. Space does not permit all ramifications on this subject. It is sufficient to say that anemia in pigs is very easily prevented. Treat on third, tenth, and eighteenth day with reduced iron. Half the amount that lies flat on a dime is the recommended dose. Better still, use an iron preparation which comes in a tube in paste form or the liquid form preparations in plastic bottles. At the same time you are giving the pigs their iron see that they also get their vitamin A and D. This can be achieved by giving each pig 4 to 5 drops of highly concentrated cod liver oil. Now is the time to hand out that little "extra bit of care" if you want to make those extra few ten dollar bills.

—Dept. of Agriculture Farm Notes



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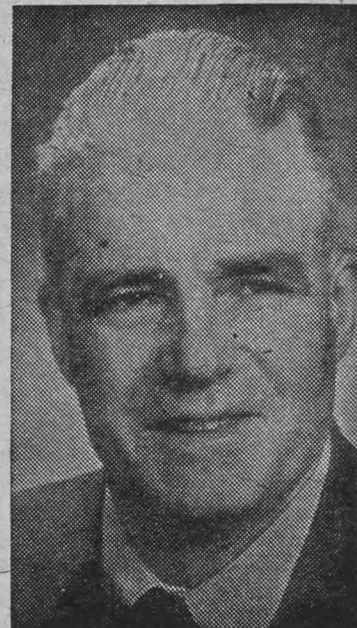
FUA Executive for 1957



MR. A. W. PLATT



MRS. C. T. ARMSTRONG



MR. HENRY YOUNG

Re-elected president by acclamation at the F.U.A. convention was A. W. Platt, Lethbridge district farmer. Mr. Henry Young of Millet defeated Ed. Nelson of Brightview in the vice-presidential race. Mrs. C. T. Armstrong of Calgary was re-elected president of the F.W.U.A.

There were seven candidates for the three executive positions. Those elected were Mr. A. B. Wood, of Dewberry, Mrs. W. C. Taylor of Wainwright, and Mr. Ed. Nelson of Brightview. The unsuccessful candidates were Herb Marquardt of High Prairie, James Derrick of High River, Carl Stimpfle of Egremont and Frank Maricle of Hamlin.

Mr. Wood and Mrs. Taylor are both old-timers in the organization and well known to all our members. Mr. Nelson, by comparison, is a comparative newcomer. His farm is located south-west of Wetaskiwin in the Brightview district. Here he carries on mixed farming operations. Mr. Nelson at the time of his election was director of District #9 and for many years has been active in the co-operative movement and community affairs. While a board member Mr. Nelson was a member of the car insurance committee and was our appointment to the committee set up to study and plan a hog-marketing board. He has an extensive knowledge of livestock marketing and may be expected to take a prominent part in such activities in his new position.

F.W.U.A. Holds Fall Rally

The F.W.U.A. held their Fall rally at the home of Mrs. Ed. Hermary on the North Hill in Red Deer. Seven locals were represented, namely, Roseleaf, Horn Hill, Antler Hill, Edwell, Pine Hill, Shady Nook and Red Deer. Mrs. Carter presided, and Mrs. P. McKinnon did the secretarial work.

The handicraft prize list was discussed and some minor changes were made in the 1956 list. It was decided to hold the summer conference as usual. Burnt Lake was requested to plan and promote the annual conference to be held on or about the first Friday in July. All locals are expected to give what assistance they can to Burnt Lake local in this regard.

Mrs. Braithwaite, FWUA director for district 10, spoke briefly on "What the FUA Means to Me." She managed the canvass for district 10 during the annual round-up week of Nov. 12-17.

The Red Deer local served refreshments. Approximately 30 members were present.

The Organized Farmer

Editor A. W. PLATT

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EDITORIALS

Farm Organizations and Politics

In these times farm organizations find themselves dealing more and more with governments. As governments participate more and more in the economic life of the nation it seems that almost every question that affects our economic welfare requires governmental action in order to bring about the desired results. In major issues this usually means the Federal Government, because they have authority over such matters as fiscal policy and they only have the resources for assistance programs. It is therefore in our interest to elect to parliament those individuals and political parties that can be expected to implement our program. The policy of the Farmers' Union is to ask its members to take political matters seriously and to become well informed on the platform of each party and the qualifications of the individuals representing the parties. With this information the individual must then decide how he shall vote. The Union will not endorse any political party or any individual.

Lately there has been a tendency amongst some farm leaders to endorse by inference, at least, certain political parties. This is a great temptation because we are all so keen to see our program acted upon and believe, as individuals, that certain parties hold more promise

others. Regardless of this temptation we must never become identified with any political party. To do so is to court disaster for the Union. We can be most effective by retaining our political independence in exerting our influence on all parties to gain support for our program. Above all else we must guard against having each of the major farm organizations supporting different political parties, either directly or by influence. Such action is a sure way to keep agriculture in chaos and to delay indefinitely the day when agriculture will enjoy parity. Such a course may be of value to politicians but it would be a disaster to farmers.

F.U.A. Week Membership Drive

A month or more has passed since the membership drive got underway, instead of completing it within the week as was anticipated when a week's drive was planned, it appears now it will again become a long drawn out affair, running into the winter months.

The rush of Christmas activities has brought a sudden stop to daily receipt of foremen's returns. All returns received to date have been checked, receipt issued and the membership cards written and mailed out. At time of writing, noon December 20th, 24,611 membership cards have been issued, to this can added another 2,195 outstanding memberships as reported by foremen making a total known sign up of 26,806.

The sharp increase in partial returns received by mail and not covered, or reported by foreman cards has forced us to stop using this method of tabulating daily returns. Having to go back to and taking the daily count from the number of membership cards issued, we must also wait until the end of each month before we can ascertain what the increase or decrease in membership may be.

A few foremen have reported difficulties in getting canvassers to go out, several of these locals have been given help to canvass. The district officials are prepared to assist whenever requested, to go out to see what can be done to help if this information is sent to them or to central office. Every local and every unorganized area must be accounted for before this membership drive is over. With the continued support and co-operation of our members we can and must build a bigger and better farm organization not only in Alberta but across Canada.

We would like, at this time, to acknowledge

and publicly thank the U.G.G. for sponsoring our "F.U.A. Week" program over radio stations CFRN and CFCN; the Alberta Wheat Pool for the support they gave on their regular news broadcasts; the U.F.A. Co-op for their support in the weekly newspaper, and the press and radio stations throughout the province for the added publicity they gave to it, and to again express our appreciation to Don Clayton for the opportunity to report in person, on the membership drive on the Canada Packers program. Last but not least our thanks and appreciation to every canvasser and foreman, the success of the membership drive to date must be credited to these loyal and hardworking men and women in our organization.

F.U.A. SPONSORS WHIST PARTY

WHITELAW — As part of the Farmers' Union sign-up week Whitelaw F.U.A. local sponsored a whist party at their hall, the Burnt River School, on Friday evening, November 16th. Ten tables played 15 hands. Scores were close, prize winners all had to draw for a clear win. In one case three were tied. After a hearty lunch and a friendly visit everyone headed home in a happy mood.

People are still laughing over an incident which occurred at a recent PTA program. Five little first graders marched out on the stage to welcome everyone. Each child carried a letter to make up the word "Hello."

All took their correct positions except for one little boy who carried the letter "o." He couldn't remember where to stand. He paused for a few minutes at the back of the stage to everyone's amusement. But he really brought down the house when he finally decided he belonged at the head of the group!

* * *

Little Daisy rushed to greet her father when he came home.

"Mustn't hug me," he cautioned. "Daddy has caught a cold, and if you hug me you'll catch it."

Little Daisy studied him a minute, then she asked, "Who did you hug?"

* * *

First Wife: "What color dress are you wearing to the reception dinner?"

Second Wife: "We're supposed to wear something to match the color of our husband's hair. What will you wear?"

First Wife: "Gracious me! I don't think I'll go."



Season's Greetings

A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year is the sincere wish of U.F.A. Co-op to all its patrons.

Your Farm Supply Co-operative values greatly the cordial relations it has enjoyed with its customers. The loyalty and steady patronage of members has built this farmer owned and controlled organization to the point where it can make greater savings for these members and provide increasingly efficient service.

IT PAYS TO BUY FARM SUPPLIES THROUGH

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Fiftieth Annual Meeting Shows Financial Position Strongest in History

The Directors' Report presented by President J. E. Brownlee to the delegates at the 50th Annual Meeting of the United Grain Growers Ltd. recently held at Calgary disclosed that for the fiscal year ending July 31st, 1956, the Company had again experienced a very successful year and that its financial position was the strongest in its history.

Consolidated earnings for the year were \$2,086,714, while net profit after taxes and

an Wheat Board, pay storage for farm stored grain by increasing the initial payment each month of the year. Other resolutions advocated that the Canadian Wheat Board take over complete marketing of Flax and Rye, and that the Company make representations to the proper authorities urging that allowance for depreciation on farm granaries be increased.

Guests at the Annual Meeting who brought greetings to the Company on its 50th Anniver-



GRAIN CO-OP PIONEERS — Shown are five of the original shareholders of United Grain Growers Limited who came to Calgary for the 50th annual meeting of the Company. Left to right: R. Caskey and William Stewart, both of Portage la Prairie; Mrs. R. Berger of Victoria (formerly Mrs. Herb Muffet of Wolsey, Sask); A. N. Belous, Steenen, Sask. and G. Skinner, Barrhead, Alta.

after providing \$675,000 for patronage dividend on grain deliveries, was \$505,338. Dividends on capital stock at the rate of 5% amounted to \$240,460. The balance sheet showed working capital at \$7,064,887, the highest in the Company's history, while shareholders' equity also reached a new high of \$10,084,568. Shareholders' equity is now twice the amount of paid-up capital, \$4,809,205.

Thirty-one resolutions were considered at the business sessions by the 306 delegates representing the Company's 50,000 shareholders. One resolution which was passed advocated that the Dominion Government through the Canadi-

sary included Hon. J. J. Bowlen, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta; Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta; H. W. Webber, Supervisor of Co-operatives for Alberta; Arnold Platt, President of the Farmers' Union of Alberta; and B. N. Arnason, Deputy Minister, Department of Co-operatives, Saskatchewan.

Four Directors of the Company whose term of office had expired were re-elected for a further three year term, these being Mr. J. Harvey Lane, Fillmore, Sask.; Mr. J. D. MacFarlane, Aylsham, Sask.; Mr. A. M. Runciman, Abernethy, Sask. and Mrs. J. I. Stevens, Morinville, Alberta.

Over 600 delegates and visitors attended the annual dinner at the Palliser Hotel on which occasion Professor D. G. Creighton, author and leading Canadian historian, was the principal speaker, his subject being "The Past Half Century". In tracing the history of the west Professor Creighton noted that "the U.G.G. was as old as the organized west". He declared "You have endured and suffered, prospered and achieved but you are still simply on the treshold of full development."

One of the highlights of the meeting was an address by Senator T. A. Crerar, who was president of the Company for many years. He spoke of the Company's early trials and told how many difficulties had been overcome by farmers choosing as their leaders men dedicated to

the principles of Tradition, Integrity, and Service.

During the dinner Mr. Brownlee accepted on behalf of the Company the presentation of a four-tiered 50th Anniversary cake by Mr. George Church, president of the United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative, on behalf of his organization. Presentation of a silver ink stand and set was also made by Mr. J. Buttery, Manager for Canada for the Royal Exchange Assurance Group, with which the Company has been associated for some forty years.

OBITUARY —

We were sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Albert Rosin of Craigmyle on November 16th. Mr. Rosin is the president of the Hands Hill FUA local #1123.



Additional Service to You

NOW three ways...

...for Your Convenience!

In the hope that it will be a further convenience to you, arrangements have now been made so that all bills issued by us may be paid to:

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Highlights of FUA Convention

By H. Y.

The recent F.U.A. Annual Convention was one of the best of its kind.

While not quite as large as the 1955 convention, it was well attended, some 626 delegates and officers being present, besides 100 registered visitors.

Throughout the convention the level of debate was high. There was very wide participation in the discussions, and there seemed to be general agreement on almost all decisions reached.

Probably the most unusual feature of the convention was the fact that almost all outstanding business was cleaned up by the delegates instead of being left over for the board to deal with, as has happened too often in the past. In this convention the system adopted this year of having committees of the board bring in reports covering several main angles of F.U.A. policy served to get important matters before the convention early in the sessions.

Basic National Farm Policy

On basic national farm policy the convention decided to press demand for parity between agriculture and other occupations. This to be brought about by raising the price of farm products used in Canada by Federal Government deficiency payments, rather than tariffs or price fixing. Surplus farm products for export to be supported at a lower level by floor prices.

Marketing

On marketing the convention re-affirmed support of the Wheat Board method of selling grain and producer marketing boards for livestock products. It was decided to press for reduction of wheat acreage through a soil bank plan along the same lines as in the U.S.A.

The widespread dissatisfaction with box car distribution was expressed in the repeated demand that grain producers should be enabled to deliver their quotas to the elevator of their choice. The request for a new Transport Controller, with wider powers was renewed.

Farm Organization

On farmer organization some changes in regional and national farm organization were suggested. These would involve merging the Interprovincial Farm Union Council and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture into a new

national farm organization based mainly upon direct membership. Within Alberta the F.U.A. would be recognized as the direct representative of the man on the land and the A.F.A. would revert to its original purpose as an agency to co-ordinate the farm co-operatives.

One of the hottest discussions of the convention took place on farmer-hunter relations. Evidently the government's new regulations are far from satisfactory. There was one general agreement that the right of a hunter to pursue wounded game onto a farmer's property was open to abuse and should be wiped out.

Municipal Finance

On municipal finance the convention was unanimous in opposition to any new tax which would increase the load on agriculture. Instead it was suggested that land taxes should be reduced and any loss of revenue made up by increased taxation on the "Interests who control Alberta's natural resources, such as oil companies, etc." The right for M.D.'s to tax pipelines was also advocated.

Licensing of Farmers

A new idea adopted by the convention would provide for the licensing of all Alberta farmers who sell produce. The proposition is that all farmers before selling produce be required to take out an "Agricultural Producer's License" which would include farm union fees.

This idea which would ensure 100% organization for farmers, seemed to catch the imagination of the convention and was adopted by a very large majority, after spirited debate.

Tax Accounting Service

The convention was informed that the F.U.A. is setting up an Income Tax accounting service for members. Mr. McKittrick, the accountant, was introduced to the convention and outlined the proposed service.

Speakers

Speakers at the convention covered a wide range of subjects. First, and very important, was Professor W. B. Baker, who is chairman of the commission which is making an exhaustive study of rural life in Saskatchewan. He spoke on the future of western agriculture as indicated by their studies.

Other speakers included George McLivor, head of the Canadian Wheat Board; Albert Cormack, president of the Ontario Farmers' Union; Jake Schulz, chairman of the I.F.U.C.; and Hon. A. J. Hooke, Alberta Minister of Municipal Affairs, who represented the Provincial Government.

A somewhat unusual feature was an address by a full blooded Indian from Morley, Minor Chief Ed Hunter, who spoke at length on the grievances of his people under the present Indian Act.

Action Program

Perhaps the most important thing done by the F.U.A. convention was to name an action committee of six. The purpose of this committee is to suggest ways and means of getting action from Provincial and Federal governments on the F.U.A. program.

The committee recommended a program of intensified activity in dealing with our political representatives in both Federal and Provincial fields.

In view of the near approach of a Federal

election it was decided to step up our activities at Ottawa through a large delegation and a series of farmer representatives at the Capital during the coming session.

It was also decided that in the election campaign a series of non-party mass meetings will be sponsored by the F.U.A. throughout Alberta. To these the candidates of all parties will be invited and asked to state where they stand on the F.U.A. program.

Altogether it was a good convention, a lot of business was done. The feeling was good. The re-election by acclamation of President Arnold Platt was both a stroke of good business and a well deserved tribute to good work done.

However, the job now is to get action on the convention's decisions. In this great task the officers of the F.U.A. need the active support of every Union member, and indeed every farmer. The future of Canadian Agriculture is at stake. The proposals of the Action Committee require the active assistance of the membership. To get results in 1957 everyone must do their part.

Now is the time!

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F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

Spruceville FWUA #912 (Lacombe) at their last meeting planned a community Christmas party, to be held on the 15th, beginning with a pot-luck supper, followed by a program, Santa Claus and treats.

* * *

One Tree FWUA #1307 report a fairly successful bake sale. A fowl supper was planned by the joint FWUA and FUA locals — proceeds to be divided.

* * *

Swalwell FWUA #1017 plan to send a CARE parcel of tools to Korea. At the next meeting members will exchange Christmas gifts — 50c value.

* * *

Camrose FWUA #801 report donations to Unitarian Service and to a 4-H member who won the award to attend National Club Week in Toronto.

* * *

Warner FWUA #1402 report a very interesting Hallowe'en party held to entertain the husbands. Everybody went in costume and a contest was held to guess who the masked people were. Prizes given for best dressed. Bingo was played, bobbing for apples, etc.

* * *

Berrywater FWUA #1202 (Vulcan) was given a brief but interesting report of the FWUA Rally at Arrowwood in October. Donations were made and discussions held on a number of matters — including Farm Radio Forum.

* * *

Horn Hill FWUA #1011 (Red Deer) held a bake sale which raised \$25.00 toward expenses of a delegate. Elderly ex-members are to be remembered at Christmas. The local president has kindly invited the local members to a pot-luck dinner near Christmas. This local takes up a special collection at the December meeting for welfare work.

* * *

Seven FWUA locals near Red Deer sent representatives to their annual Fall Rally at Red Deer on Oct. 30. Mrs. Carter presided. Eight locals here co-operate in holding their summer conference each year. They also assist with a local radio program, on CKRD—Red Deer, each Wednesday at 10:15. Mrs. C. R. Braithwaite was guest speaker at the rally.

* * *

Hairy Hill FWUA #618 have made plans for a bingo and will have farm produce and hand-made articles for prizes. A donation was made to the T.B. Christmas seal fund.

Naco FWUA #1115 (Sedalia) have made substantial donations to Sedalia Projector Fund and Cereal Hospital Auxiliary. A Christmas party is planned — each member to contribute one item to the program or pay a penalty.

* * *

A very interesting meeting was held by Viking South FWUA #807. The bingo party which they held in October was quite successful. A donation was made to the FUA to help pay their delegate's expenses to the convention.

* * *

Trochu FWUA #1025 announce election of new officers as follows — Mrs. Howard Boles, Three Hills, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. George Parks, Trochu, president; and Mrs. Walter Ranta, vice-president.

* * *

Pollockville FWUA #1106 announce two substantial donations made. A successful bazaar and dance are reported. Parcels of clothes and miscellaneous articles are to be sent to the Cerebral Palsy Association and the handicraft sale table. Various matters of local interest were planned.

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Imperial FWUA #621 (Vegreville) plan a home bake sale at the Vegreville Co-op in December to raise funds for the local. A lively discussion on resolutions was held and voted on.

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Three Hills FWUA #1018 have decided to show a film early in the year on "Good Designing". The December meeting will take the form of a Christmas party.

* * *

Jenny Lind FWUA #1305 (Scandia) plan to hold their annual joint FWUA and FUA banquet in December, ladies to serve supper and men to provide the entertainment. A large Christmas cake has been made and decorated to be raffled the night of the banquet, proceeds for FWUA general funds. Mrs. Norma J. Grey, district home economist, gave a very interesting talk and demonstration on handicrafts.

* * *

A Christmas party is planned by New Borschiw FWUA #625 (Holden) at which an applied quilt will be raffled. A varied program has been arranged so that each member of the family will get a great deal of enjoyment out of it.

* * *

Hazel Bluff FWUA #305 (Westlock) are taking a great deal of interest in Farm Forum broadcasts and have organized their membership so that each one may take part in them. A demonstration by the district home economist was given on gifts which may be made at home.

Willingdon East FWUA #617 have planned a Christmas party for the members and their husbands, for the January 2 meeting.

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Shady Nook FWUA #1014 (Red Deer) report a very successful and profitable bazaar, bake sale and tea — netting them \$156.53. New officers were elected at the last meeting.

* * *

Hope Valley FWUA #718 plan to have Don Clayton visit their local whenever he can come. This local plans to give the FUA local help in finding means of raising money for the local.

* * *

Gliechen FWUA #1010 report a good turnout of members in spite of the very cold weather. A number of donations to different welfare organizations were decided on.

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After election of officers Stony Plain FWUA #501 made arrangements for a film to be shown at the Christmas party, for members and their families. The annual report shows the local in good standing financially.

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Heath FWUA #703 report a busy and interesting meeting, with plans made for further projects.

* * *

Poplar Ridge FWUA #1020 (Red Deer) have planned a New Year dance (a novelty dance) with prizes offered. Donations have been made to T.B. seals and Woods Christian Home. Gifts will be given this month to all those over 70 in the district.

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The last meeting of Pine Hill FWUA #1013 (Red Deer) was a combined business and social affair at which plans for a Christmas party were made.

* * *

The members of Berrywater FWUA #1202 (Vulcan) report catering to 160 members and wives of the Elks at a turkey banquet, and also at an auction sale. A Christmas party is planned by this local. The meeting ended with a joint social evening.

The master of ceremonies at a banquet table awakened a guest at his right by tapping his bald head with the gavel, while the last speaker was holding forth before a large and exhaustive audience.

"Hit me again," the aroused snoozer loudly implored: "I can still hear him."

Co-op Union Corner

Hi!

Just a word of appreciation to the Farmers' Union from the Alberta Co-operative Unions.

Why appreciation? Well, because the Alberta Co-op Union is a very small organization which will probably never own a building of its own, as most co-ops and farmer organizations do. Consequently, we have to find office space in someone else's building. We have hopped around from the Co-op Wholesale Building in Calgary, to a private house in that city, then to the Co-op Wholesale in Edmonton, and now we are settled (we hope for a long time to come,) in the very attractive Farmers' Union Building in Edmonton.

We think that we belong here. Our guess is that at least 90% of the farmers in Alberta are members of at least one co-op, and most of belong to half a dozen or more. That means that practically all members of the FUA are also members of several co-ops and are vitally interested in the fortunes of these organizations. The job of the Co-op Union is to try to help all co-operatives. For example, there are a lot of jobs in the field of co-op education and promotion which all co-ops would like to have done — and they are ready to help in getting them done. The Co-op Union tries to do these jobs and receives support from all interested associations — a much more sensible process than having each co-op tackle the problem individually, which is both costly and confusing.

We hope that we can be of some help to the F.U.A. also, because, as we have already pointed out, whenever we can help a farmer, or farm organization, we can be sure that we are helping a lot of co-op members, and they are the people we are here to serve.

If any FUA members have co-op troubles, need help in organizing a co-op, or are interested in finding out anything about co-ops — in particular or in general, we will be glad to hear from them, and we will do our best to be of help.

How about starting a Co-op Question Box in The Organized Farmer? Send in your questions, and if we can't answer them we will find someone who can.

The Co-op Union is yours — but is like your tractor — it has no value unless it is used. We like being used, and we specialize in "beefs."

Are you mad at your co-op. Write and tell us about it.

In the meantime — Happy New Year!

—The Alberta Co-op Union

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

GARDINER ON PARITY

Dear Editor:

"We ought to have parity." We agree! "If you mean by that, cost of production in relation to returns, (we have that now)." Well! Mr. Gardiner we don't have it now. We could take even present costs of production in our stride if our relations were at parity with the returns that other sections of the Canadian economy

enjoy. It is the level of Canadian economy that sets our costs of production. That same level should be used to set the standard of agricultural returns.

Equalization payments from the Canadian Government revenues should be made to farmers not to processors of farm products. Parity for agriculture would still leave room for individual initiative. The efficient hard working farmer would get the most returns because his production of units for payment would be higher. To prevent over-production a system of delivery quotas as we now have in the grain sales would take care of that. Or better yet a graduated scale of payments, reduced as a farmer's production increased.

If we really consider that the family type farm is essential to Canadian life, some special effort must be made to keep such family farms solvent, and with a standard of living comparable to that enjoyed by urban workers.

W. L. Pearce,

Whitelaw, Alta.



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United Grain Growers Limited, as the result of successful operations for the past year, has provided for the following distribution to Shareholder-Members and Customers:

Patronage Dividend	\$675,000
Class "A" Share Dividend	226,041
Class "B" Share Dividend (Appropriation)	14,419
TOTAL	\$915,460
 Total share capital of the Company at July 31st, 1956	 \$ 4,809,205
Total shareholders' equity, including reserves and surplus	\$10,084,568
Investment in country and terminal properties etc.	\$26,279,270
Working capital	\$ 7,064,887

**TOTAL DISTRIBUTION PAID TO SHAREHOLDERS AND CUSTOMERS
SINCE THE COMPANY'S FORMATION NOW AMOUNTS TO \$16,306,220**



United Grain Growers Ltd.



Season's Greetings



The delegates, directors, and management of the Alberta Wheat Pool wish to thank the farm people of this province who supported Pool elevators so generously in the past year and extend to all best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

REVIEW OF POOL OPERATIONS

In the 1955-56 crop season Alberta Wheat Pool elevators handled 54.2 million bushels.

Net earnings during the year amounted to \$1,042,807 which delegates at the recent annual meeting decided to distribute as follows:

CASH PATRONAGE DIVIDEND	337,743
RESERVE PURCHASE FROM MEMBERS	401,137
INCOME TAX	127,556
ADDED TO WORKING CAPITAL	176,371
	<hr/>
	\$1,042,807

On deliveries to Pool elevators in 1955-56 patronage dividends totalling \$759,921 in value will be paid on the following basis:

Wheat and flax—1.8 cents a bushel, with .8 cent in cash and the remainder in reserves.

Oats, barley and rye—.9 cent a bushel, with .4 cent in cash and the balance in reserves.

The record above shows that it has again paid grain producers to patronize Pool elevators.

